

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 21-32 are pending in the application, of which claims 25-29 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 21-24 are being amended. After the amendments, claims 21-32 will be pending.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having SEQ ID NO: 3; and
- (b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the polynucleotide having SEQ ID NO: 3 under conditions of about 100 mM salt and 60°C, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding ~~an~~ a human IL-B50 receptor.

22. (Currently amended) A purified polypeptide wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, capable of binding a human IL-B50 ~~receptors~~ receptor.

23. (Currently amended) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding a human IL-B50 ~~receptors~~ receptor.

24. (Currently amended) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% 90% identical to amino acids 1 through 131 of SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding ~~an~~ a human IL-B50 receptor.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of stimulating lymphoid proliferation, comprising incubating lymphoid cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, further comprising incubating the lymphoid cells with IL-7.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of stimulating lymphopoietic development comprising incubating progenitor cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the progenitor cells are bone marrow-derived stem cells.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising incubating the bone marrow-derived stem cells with IL-7.

30. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 22 or 23, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein.

31. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 30 wherein the fusion protein comprises an Fc domain.

32. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24, and a physiologically acceptable diluent or carrier.